

ornery



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Word of the Day - for Toastmasters everywhere
Tuesday 5th November 2024



ornery

(adjective) OR-nu-ri

Uncooperative, irritable, commonplace, inferior, poor, insufficient, meagre.

Some good one-liners can't disguise the fact that Vonnegut, once the angry, **ornery** subversive, is now preaching only to the choir.

James Purdon, *The Observer*, 4 February 2007, *The Observer* reviewing Kurt Vonnegut's *A Man Without a Country: A Memoir of Life in George W Bush's America*.

He cracks an **ornery** smile and shakes a screw-you fist.

Dorian Lynskey, *Guardian Unlimited*, 19 March 2004. *Guardian Unlimited*

His **ornery** temperament links him not only to dyspeptic guys sitting in bars from Buffalo to Oakland but to muckraking journalists of past eras.

David Denby, *The New Yorker*, 28 October 2002.

For the men and women passing the time in the backyard of a ravaged row house in the Hill District of Pittsburgh in 1985, life is like an **ornery** lover, comforting you tonight and frustrating you tomorrow.

Charles Isherwood, *The New York Times*, 12 March 2007.
New York Times